

KANSAS COMMENT

Farm Houses Burned.—A prairie fire started near Leon, Kan., and owing to strong wind, much damage resulted. The farm houses of W. Cresson and J. Davis were burned.

Illness Causes Suicide.—In a fit of mental aberration, George Lemler, who recently came from Pittsburg to Folsom Camp, committed suicide at his home by shooting himself through the head. The young man had been sick for a long time, and his illness preyed upon his mind until he became mentally unbalanced. He shot himself in the head, using a revolver. The bullet entered the temple.

Wallace County Prairie Fire.—Driven by a heavy north wind, a fierce prairie fire is burning everything before it in the south half of Wallace county. The fire is driven with great rapidity and the people are powerless to stop its progress. It is impossible to estimate the loss but it will be heavy. The Clark ranch on Rose creek, was burned over and several hundred tons of hay were destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Run Over and Killed.—R. L. McRae, of Peru, Kan., was killed in the yards of the Frisco railroad at Vinita, I. T. He was riding a freight going to Tulsa, and a car was sidetracked here. He got out of the car and was trying to get across the tracks to another, when he was struck by a car backing in the yards, knocked down, run over and cut to pieces. He left a widow and three children at Peru, Kan.

Farmer's Body Found.—John Wolford, farmer living in Fairmount township, in Leavenworth county, was found dead in a creek on his premises. The water was four feet deep where his body was found and the indications pointed to suicide. Mr. Wolford has been in ill health for several years. He was 63 years old and lived there twenty-four years. He owned half a section of the best farm land in the county.

Fort Riley Building Bids.—The proposals for the construction of a veterinary hospital and a subsistence store house at Fort Riley were opened. Zeigler & Dalton, of Junction City, proposed to erect the building for \$16,865. Zeigler & Zeigler, of Junction City, are to build the subsistence store house, \$14,774. Gruber Bros. of Lawrence, Kan., got the plumbing, heating and electric wiring at \$4,432. It will be ten days before the contracts are awarded from Washington.

Heavy Hail at Wichita.—On March 27 Wichita was visited by a fierce rain and hail storm. The storm came from the southwest and a great deal of damage resulted from the heavy hail. Five greenhouses sustained great damage and many windows in the city were broken. The rainfall was 1.99 inches. The rain and hail was accompanied by a severe electrical storm. Two homes were struck by lightning and one badly damaged by fire. The velocity of the wind was thirty-five miles an hour.

Sorry He Sold His Farm.—A. C. Gray sold his section of land five miles from Peabody a week ago to Samuel McFadden of Ohio, for \$21,000. It took only a few days to convince Mr. Gray that he had lost a good thing and this week he bought it back at a great advance in price. Mr. McFadden had also become convinced that it was a good thing. Land has been steadily advancing around Peabody, the result of good crops and an influx of moneyed Eastern farmers for the last two or three years. Land that was sold at \$20 per acre a year or so ago, can not be bought for \$20 per acre now.

Wheat in Central Kansas.—With one of the two most critical months in the progress of the wheat past, the farmers have reason to be very much encouraged by the situation. The fields are covered with an even, rank growth, showing a fine color and as plenty of moisture has fallen the likelihood of damage by winds is little considered. A recent trip from the Texas line to Peabody by a leading wheat grower brings a report of similar conditions throughout the entire distance. The Texas wheat is high enough to wave in the winds. Western Kansas reports the best wheat in its history for this date and expects to excel the record of 1903. Thomas Taylor of the Pearl neighborhood, the wheat raising center of Dickinson county, said: "In all my twenty years in Dickinson county I have never seen wheat look better at this date than now. It is not so large, but is strong and even and promises exceedingly well."

First Independent Refinery.—Material for the Big Uncle Sam Oil refinery is arriving at Cherryvale and the work on the plant will be rushed, with the idea of making this the first independent refinery in Kansas to turn out refined oil. The new refinery is to have a capacity of 1,000 barrels daily output.

Greater Than Ever.—An unofficial count indicates that the enrollment at the state agricultural college will be greater this term than that of any other term in the history of the institution.

Re-Elect Officers.—The Topeka State Fair Association has reelected M. A. Low president for the coming year. C. H. Samson has also been elected secretary for another term.

Head Cut Off by Train.—Avery Hill, a young miner, was run over and instantly killed at Galena by a Frisco passenger train. Hill's head was completely severed from his body. The supposition is that he was intoxicated and fell asleep on the track.

Minneapolis Mills Sold.—Harry and Samuel Jackson have purchased the Marley roller mills, owned by Richard C. Jackson at Minneapolis. It is understood R. C. Jackson has purchased the Bowersock mills at Lawrence, Kan., and will run their working capacity to 1,000 barrels per day.

\$32 to the Acre.—Last year was not specially good for cane, yet Sidney L. Smith of Anthony raised 800 bushels of seed and 200 tons of dry fodder on fifty acres. The seed sold for nearly a dollar a bushel and the fodder was worth \$4.50 a ton on the farm. A crop worth \$32 per acre isn't had for an off year.

Will Have Sewer System.—McPherson City is to have a sewer system. The necessity for a perfect system of sewerage from the city has become so manifest that the candidates of the election on the city council this spring have recognized the demand of it and every instance have pledged themselves to vote for it.

Boys Bought Whisky.—Depositions were taken by the county attorney at Emporia in securing evidence against Edward Brier, an alleged jointist, on whom an injunction to prevent him from running a joint was served recently. Five boys, from 14 to 19 years old, testified that they had bought whisky of Brier repeatedly.

Oil and Gasoline Cheaper.—Western Kansas towns have begun to feel the effects of the oil agitation and the anti-discrimination law. Refined oil out there is now selling at 15 cents a gallon. Up until the legislature met it sold for 20 cents. Gasoline formerly sold at 17 cents in small quantities and 14 cents in barrel lots.

Want Assistant Attorney General.—Word comes from Topeka that many prohibitionists at Leavenworth have requested the state officials to appoint an assistant attorney general for Leavenworth county. The movement is to have the assistant attorney general appointed before the convening of the grand jury April 10, so as to secure judgments against saloon keepers.

High School Dedicated.—The Cherokee County High School was dedicated at Columbus under most favorable conditions. The crowd was estimated from four to eight thousand. Chancellor Frank Strong of the state university; Prof. Frank R. Dyer, assistant state superintendent; Prof. R. A. Russ, superintendent of the Manual Training School at Pittsburg, were among the prominent men who spoke upon the subject of education. Governor Hoch was expected to be present but failed.

No Pardon For Smiley.—Governor Hoch will not grant a pardon to E. J. Smiley, convicted of violating the Kansas anti-trust law while acting as secretary of the Kansas Grain Dealers' Association. "Mr. Smiley is a miniature Rockefeller," said Governor Hoch today, in discussing the case. "If his methods were to prevail the farmers of Kansas would have received only \$20,000,000 for their wheat this year, instead of \$60,000,000. I am glad we have a law that will protect the men who raise the wheat."

Open Old Plant.—The National Packing Company, owner of the plant of the Hutchinson Packing company, through its representative, W. E. Ruffo, of Hamilton, Canada, announces that the local plant will be opened inside of sixty days. The building has not been operated as a meat packing plant for seventeen years, being closed down after the boom days. The Hutchinson Salt Company leased the plant for five years after the Armour's bought it and made salt there a part of the time, until last November, when the lease expired. It has been idle since that time.

For the Semi-Arid District.—At Hays City the new experimental station will make an experiment in growing wheat this season. The object is to get a variety that will be adapted to the semi-arid district of the West. More than fifty varieties will be tested. The station will develop more work in horticulture this season than ever before. A horticulturist from the agricultural college has been sent out to have charge of the department, and plans are in process for work with fruits, vegetables, in forestry and landscape gardening. New stocks of trees, plants and seed will arrive with which it is hoped something can be ascertained that will prove of great value to horticulture in the West.

Horse Shows For Kansas.—A number of stockmen interested in horse met at the Bretton hotel in Winfield and perfected an organization which has for a purpose a series of horse shows and horse sales in this and adjoining cities this summer.

Minister Is Married.—Rev. Howard Thompson, pastor of the Methodist church in Jefferson, Kan., was married at Winfield to Miss Kansas Belle Pugh, daughter of Bennett Pugh, a prairie fire at Elmo, Kan. She was trying to protect her residence from the flames, when her clothing became ignited.

Horse Thieves in Marion County.—There seems to be an organized band of horse thieves operating in Marion as stolen horses are frequently reported to Sheriff Evans and that officer is on the go chasing clues. The latest victim is John B. Skinner, who lives 6 miles south of Marion. A fine team of mules was stolen from his barn.

To Mine in California.—The Newton Mining and Development Company, organized at Newton and incorporated under the laws of Arizona, has leased mineral and timber claims in Plumas county, Cal. The officers are: President, John C. Nicholson; vice-president, P. M. Holsinger; secretary, S. D. Williams; treasurer, J. D. Nicholson.

Paroled Man Kills Himself.—S. A. Paugh, 23 years old, a paroled inmate of the reformatory, who had been at work on a farm near Kinsley for several months, shot himself through the heart. No cause was assigned, as Paugh had been making his reports to the institution with regularity. He was sent to from Leavenworth county in 1902, and paroled last October.

Alleged Jewelry Thieves.—Charles Medley was arrested at Hutchinson and Fred Cole at Newton, charged with stealing a gold watch, a diamond ring and other jewelry from Newton homes one day last December. Both men are colored, and are believed by the police to belong to an organized gang that has been operating in Central Kansas for several months.

Knocked Down by Train.—Milton Weather, a man 65 years old, giving his address as Leavenworth, was knocked down and dangerously hurt in the Rock Island yards at Herlington. A switch engine bumped a string of cars against which he was leaning, knocking him under the trucks, crushing his right arm and chest. His wounds were temporarily dressed and he was sent to the hospital at Abilene.

Saved \$1.75 a Barrel.—Representative Polly, of Republic, has written a letter to the governor, showing how the maximum oil rate law works up in that country. "Prior to the passage of the law," said he, "the merchants of Belleville paid \$1.52 freight on a barrel of oil from Atchison. They now pay 33 cents, or \$1.16 less than the old rate. If the anti-discrimination bill works as well as the maximum rate bill the people of Kansas will reap much benefit."

Escaped From Reformatory.—Otto Koontz, sent up from Wyandotte county three years ago for grand larceny; Cleve Culbertson, sent from Dickinson county three years ago for burglary, and Roy Harvey, sent from Gray county last November for robbing a Santa Fe freight car, escaped from the reformatory at Hutchinson and were recaptured just after noon in an abandoned salt plant across the Arkansas river. They were taken back, and Koontz may have to spend his remaining two years of confinement in the Lansing penitentiary.

Captain Cuts His Throat.—No reason is known for the attempted suicide of George W. Coleman, of Salina, at his home in that town. After building the kitchen fire he deliberately cut his throat a number of times with a razor. Surgeons managed to check the loss of blood, but it is thought his life cannot be saved. He fought the surgeons and tore the bandages from his throat. Coleman is 28 years old. He is captain of Company G, Kansas national guards, which is to be inspected by Colonel Wilder S. Metcalf, first regiment, K. N. G., and two army officers.

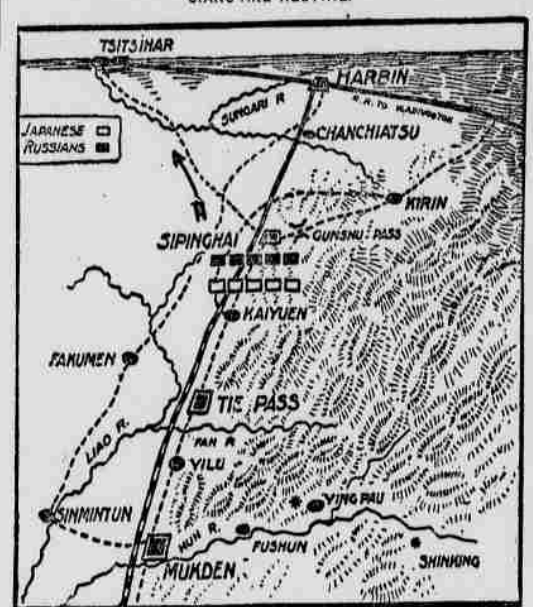
Grand Jury Discharged.—The grand jury which has been in session at Winfield since March 16 is discharged. Much work has been accomplished in the wholesome fear instilled, though only eleven true bills were returned, all of which are secret. The administration and condition of the county poor farm were highly commended, but the county jail and the office of the court house were severely and emphatically condemned. The court house was found to be too crowded, many valuable papers being filed on the floor for want of space while the jail is in an unhealthy and unsanitary condition. Both a new jail and court house are badly needed.

Looking For Zinc at Geary.—A company is being organized at Junction City for the purpose of prospecting for lead and zinc in this county. Those interested have leased about 4,000 acres of land, eight to fourteen miles from this city. Since the open weather set in they have been doing considerable prospecting with pick and shovel, and have brought in many fine specimens of lead and zinc. Drillers are to be brought here from Southwest Missouri to do the prospect drilling, and the organizers of the company expect to have their first well started inside of six weeks. The specimens of ore that they have brought in were found in the sides of hills not lower than ninety feet from the top of the hills.

Baldwin to Have Gas.—The city council of Baldwin granted a gas franchise to George L. Pattison, representing the National Gas Company, to pipe gas through the streets of Baldwin. It is a twenty year franchise at a forty cent per thousand maximum rate. Work will be begun within thirty days.

Death in Prairie Fire.—Mrs. John Hughes was burned to death in a prairie fire at Elmo, Kan. She was trying to protect her residence from the flames, when her clothing became ignited.

ARMY POSITIONS AND LOCATION OF SIPINGHAI, WHERE THE RUSSIANS ARE RESTING.



In the map are shown the relative positions of the Japanese and Russian armies, the latter now being reported at Sipinghai, a little over seventy miles north of Tie Pass. They are, however, a long distance from Harbin, which is 260 miles north of Sipinghai. The arrow indicates the route of the flying column of Nogi's men, which is reported to be marching on Tsitsihar, about 300 miles northeast of Harbin.

HIGHLY APPLAUDED FOR HIS COMMENTS

Paris, April 3. — Foreign Minister Delcasse made a significant speech in the senate this afternoon, evidently designed to meet questions arising in connection with the visit of Emperor William today. The minister spoke with moderation, but his closing declaration that resistance in interested quarters would not cause France to modify her policy brought out vigorous applause.

"France's Moroccan policy," M. Delcasse said, "continues on the same conditions as it was begun. The Sultan's weakness and the anarchy resulting from it were prejudicial to everybody, and especially to France, in Algeria. We had to seek a remedy for the intolerable situation without allowing our action to awaken the suspicions of other nations. France does not pretend to base her interests on disregard for the interests of others. Hence arose negotiations resulting in agreements proclaiming that France possesses a special standing in Morocco. The Anglo-French treaty recognizes that it is France's task to assist in opening Morocco to civilization, and also that from the economic point of view all nations have an equal footing there. The French-Spanish agreement confirms these views. The terms of the Anglo-French treaty were immediately communicated to the Sultan; of this fact the issue of the Morocco loan by France is proof. If France sought a pretext for intervention one existed in the disturbed state of the Algerian frontier. However, from friendship for Morocco and a clear conception of her own interests, France more pointed out the necessity for establishing order. That position we still hold.

"The resistance of parties interested in maintaining the present anarchical condition of affairs leaves no room for illusion. But that will not modify our policy. Morocco is aware, both of our good will and of our strength, and also that we do not seek to expand a maturely thought out program of Moroccan policy. It, therefore, appears that France will succeed in assuring its future in the western Mediterranean without offending any right or clashing with any interest."

Are Anxious for Evidence Against Beef Trust Men

Chicago, March 31. — Twenty witnesses, several of them being employed by the Chicago packers, were heard at today's session of the special grand jury which is investigating the business transactions of the so-called beef trust.

All of these men were subjected to a rigid examination as to whether they had been approached by outsiders since being called as witnesses, the inquisitorial body evidently being more anxious, for the present at least, to secure further evidence of alleged tampering with witnesses by interested persons than to secure real facts concerning the beef combination.

From a federal official it was learned that several witnesses had been approached, and as soon as the proof is in the hands of District Attorney Morrison, it is said more indictments will be returned.

John E. Shields, general superintendent, indicted on a charge of trying to influence a witness, was put under \$1,000 bonds to appear at the July term of the United States district court when the Connors case is set for hearing. Shields signed his own bond and left for New York tonight.

Secret service men have increased in numbers so rapidly that now almost every witness of consequence is being shadowed. Many other persons not directly interested in the daily proceedings of the jury, are also being shadowed and every endeavor is being made to prevent anyone approaching a proposed witness.

In a statement given out by J. Ogden Armour, the head of Armour & Co., declared that the indictment returned against his confidential man, Thomas J. Connors, "is the result of a grave misunderstanding as to the facts."

Mr. Shields is the New York representative of H. J. Ellis & Co., agents for Armour & Co. in Singapore, and according to Mr. Armour's statement, Shields calls at the offices of the packing company were entirely of his own action. Continuing, Mr. Armour said:

"The usual courtesies of a business house to its representatives were accorded Mr. Shields to the extent of granting his request to communicate with his office in New York over the private wires of the company concerning his business affairs there, and to care for his incoming mail and telegrams received until he should call for the same. During his stay in Chicago, Mr. Shields was not entertained by representatives of Armour & Co. at dinners, theater parties or elsewhere. Mr. Connors assures me, and I have every reason to believe him, that he did not, as charged in the indictment, attempt in any manner to tamper with or influence Shields in the performance of his duty to appear before the jury and give evidence on any subject of which he might have knowledge."

FOR GREATER FREEDOM

The Movement Finds Support Among The Clergy.

IS VOICED IN A MANIFESTO.

Is Considered Another Life of Revolt Against the Domination of Russian Bureaucracy — Japan's Movements Concealed.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—The movement for greater freedom for the Russian church and the demand for the convocation of a general council to consider reforms in the spiritual and administrative life of the church, voiced in the manifesto of a group of St. Petersburg priests and printed in the dispatches April 1, finds support in the influential clergy, not only in the capital, but in the provinces, and is to be regarded as another Russia against the domination of the bureaucracy, which is equally predominant in church as political administration. It is a mistake to suppose the movement is directed against the emperor with whose position as divine representative and vicery on earth the whole belief of the Russian church is bound up, but against the subordination of church to civil authority aims, which have been steadily growing since the institution by Peter the Great of the holy synod.

The manifesto was followed by a letter from Bishop Dmitri of Novosibirsk, one of the influential principal bishops, in which he demands freedom of the church from the power of the Chinovniks and the bureaucracy and names the chief procurator of the holy synod both as an official whose power needs curtailment and who himself stands in the way of reform.

The whole movement, in fact, is aimed at the procurator general of the holy synod, Pobedonostoff and the chancellors under his direction, which, though in essence a political organization, has attained such powers that without its permission no pulp can be occupied and not even repairs in a church in the remotest government can be undertaken.

The demand for the spiritual regeneration of the church is going hand in hand with the demand for a change in the administrative machinery, though it is attracting less attention on account of Procurator General of the Holy Synod Pobedonostoff's prominence.

Ginsu Pass. — All is quiet. A heavy curtain of Japanese cavalry conceals the Japanese movements and strength from the Russian positions. Contradictory reports are being received from Chinese fugitives, most of whom indicate that there is a constant movement of the Japanese northeast.

Chinese report that the construction of a railroad from Sin Min Tia to Mukden has begun. Snow has fallen and the roads are softening into mud and are in wretched condition.

Harbin.—Business is paralyzed and a general lack of confidence is shown. A majority of the female population is leaving Harbin.

It is believed that the Japanese are preparing a bold turning movement, probably to the eastward and the Russian cavalry is operating widely in order to avoid a repetition of the surprise at Mukden.

Bill Goes to Governor.

Springfield, April 1.—A bill prohibiting the shooting of live pigeons or other birds in marksmanship matches was passed by the Illinois house of representatives. The bill had already passed the senate, and now goes to the governor.

Helsingfors, Finland, April 4.—The population is aroused by the renewal of ransacking of lodging houses by masked men who blind and gag the inmates and then search everything. The people suspect they are agents of the police.

Carnegie Library For Drake.

Des Moines, April 4. — Officers of Drake university received an offer from Andrew Carnegie of a donation of \$50,000 for the erection of a library. The offer carries the usual provisions that the university must raise a like sum.

Ann Arbor Student Drowned.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 4.—Frank Byers, a junior law student in the University of Michigan, from Harlan, Ia., was drowned while canoeing on the Huron river.

Oil Works Burned.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—The distilling department of the Zehukoff oil works was completely destroyed by fire, which is believed to be of incendiary origin. The damage is estimated at \$250,000.

Killed in a Runaway. — At Galena while Chris Stark, a miner, was driving to the mines his horse ran away. Stark fell from the buggy and his head struck a stump, killing him instantly.

The members of the rivers and harbor committee of the house returned from their trip to Porto Rico and landed at New Orleans.